

# The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2017

## Time to Celebrate

This year, Sharing Resources Worldwide is celebrating 15 years of sending medical and dental missions across the globe. We have traveled to Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, and Guinea, West Africa. Over those 15 years we have treated 7,522 children and adults with our surgical, dental, and eyeglass teams. In Honduras alone we have treated 4,264 since 2005. In 2016 we served 999 in Honduras and most of them were children. We have also sent/shipped medical supplies and equipment to even more parts of the world.

On September 23, 2017 we will celebrate with a dinner to honor all of our volunteers. Please save the date and watch for your invitation!

## My First Year

by Jennifer Rizzo

I recently returned from my first medical mission trip with Sharing Resources Worldwide. Over the past few years, I had classified a medical mission trip as a “bucket list” item. It was something that I knew I wanted to experience and learn from. But, and I cannot stress this enough, it became SO MUCH MORE! Now that I have done it once, I feel like I have the “itch” ... as in, I want to make this a normal part of my life. Even though I was tired from a stretch of long days, I left with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and feelings of gratitude, pride, and empathy along with a whole other slew of emotions. I developed a sense of comradery with this group who, other than two people, I had never even met before shaking hands at the airport. As a “newbie,” I was welcomed with open arms, mentored, and guided into what would be my role as a circulating nurse in the OR.

What, then, was the common thread that brought all us, as volun-

teers, together?

The goal of every single person in this group, along with the staff of La Providencia, was to make a difference, no matter how big or small, in the lives of the children and families that we saw each day.

The first day at the hospital was a clinic screening day. As we drove up to the hospital, we were greeted by the smiling faces of Honduran children and their families. They had made the drive, some from up to eight hours away, with hope in their hearts. Some would end up waiting for hours for the opportunity to be evaluated by a nurse practitioner or an orthopedic surgeon. Somewhere between 35–40 patients would be told that they needed surgery. Feelings of stress and anxiety lifted for others as they



Ready to go home post op



SRW OR team at work

*continued on page 2*

## Surgical Team *from page 1*

were told that what was thought to be something serious was in fact completely normal. Yet others were given news they did not expect or hope for. To see a parent of a child with spina bifida weep as they found out, for the first time, that their child would not walk was gut wrenching. In the end, no matter the outcome or the time they had to wait, these families were so grateful because they received care, and honesty, that they otherwise did not have access to. Day number one left me feeling astounded by the unmet medical needs and the conditions of poverty that many in Honduras endure. Yet it fueled a sense of determination and commitment to the days ahead.

While my experience as a recovery nurse provided me with a level of comfort in caring for surgical patients, I was a little out of my league in the OR. My insecurities quickly resolved due to the support, patience, and encouragement of my team members.

Even though I learned a lot from my group, I can honestly say I learned the most from the patients and their families. Parents who barely knew us, communicating with the assistance of an interpreter, trusted us to care for their children. Patients bravely left the comfort of their families, walking hand in hand



**Learning to walk again**

with us to the operating room. Children waiting to have surgery worked on craft projects for the staff. Family members waited patiently for rounds, or the next dose of pain medication, or to be notified that their child was done with surgery. Our efforts were met with smiles, handshakes, hugs, and words of appreciation. I don't think they will ever realize or fully understand the life lessons that they taught me.

On our last afternoon, I received a tour of the La Providencia property. The hospital is only one part of this incredible organization. They also have an orphanage and a school on site. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet some of the students. One by one, they came up to me and shook my hand, saying "nice to meet you, I am ..." in English. I was impressed by the foundational bilingual skills they already had at such a young age. But then again, I guess I shouldn't have been surprised. Why? Because when you witness the dedication of the La Providencia staff, who are some of the most giving individuals I have ever met, you would understand. They selflessly dedicate their time and energy to provide a better future for orphans and children in the community.

Even though I've resumed my life as before, I can't help but reflect on this trip regularly. It had what I know will be a lasting impact on me. And



**The entire family after surgery**

although it was my first trip, I hope that it won't be my last. To those who heard about my trip and said "I have always wanted to do that" ... don't let the BUT's win the battle. Jump on board, take a leap of faith ... trust in the power of volunteering. You won't regret it.

Thank you to the families, patients, La Providencia staff, our drivers, the hotel and its dedicated workers, and last, but not least, MY CREW!

That crew was:

Marge Abegglen RN

Mary Dowling RN

Ken Noonan MD

Kristan Sodergren NP

Kathy Sweeney LPN

Jennifer Rizzo RN

Ric Choudoir ORSA

Russell Miller CRNA

Robert Machotka RN

Tracy Cotter MD

David Mann MD

Claudia Noonan Student

Toby Haines RN

Mike Sweeney Photographer

Roxane Tillema RN

John Awowale MD

Rose Silveira CRNA ●



**SRW ortho team**

# School at La Providencia

by Annie Beinborn and Karen Fletcher

**TWO** former teachers traveled with the Pediatric Strabismus Surgical Team to Siguatepeque, Honduras in late October. Our destination was the bilingual La Providencia School Library located on the same premises as the John Eaves Medical Clinic.

Prior to our arrival, well over 1,000 used books were shipped along with the medical supplies. Thanks to donations from various sources, especially the personal collection of a recently retired Madison area teacher, we were able to catalog approximately 900 books while being at the school for one week. Their shelves contained many popular titles our students enjoy reading. Ironically, the library is well supplied with books written in English. Since most of their books have come from the United States, they are actually short of Spanish versions. Their students enjoy reading many of the same types of books that our students read!

Interestingly so, the library is a

shared space with the music department. Therefore, when the library is not being used as a library, the space is used to teach music.

When the students came into the library, they brought with them the same friendly smiles I am used to seeing at our school.

This school is bilingual so students learn in English for half of the day and Spanish the other half. Besides related arts classes (art, music, and physical ed.), students have access to a computer lab. Epic Systems in Verona, WI donated the computers.

All students and teachers eat the school's hot lunch. The food they are served is very nutritious. After lunch all students brush their teeth! That is our SRW dental team at work!

The school pays the Honduran teachers, while the English teachers are considered missionaries. They need to raise their own funds to live



on during their stay. Most English teachers stay for one to two years.

The entire experience was enlightening and rewarding! ●

## Meet Our New SRW Board Member

Wendy Read RN recently joined our SRW board of directors. Wendy has accompanied us on many mission trips and is a very versatile addition to any team. Her family has traveled around the world as her husband was in the US Air Force. We welcome her and know she will be a great addition to our board. ●

### MISSION

Through the delivery of excellent health care Sharing Resources Worldwide (SRW) endeavors to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged populations around the world.

### VISION

By organizing and supporting medical teams, SRW will provide surgical, medical, dental care, and eye care for disadvantaged people. When possible, SRW will work closely with in-country partners to deliver these kinds of care. SRW will provide on-site medical professionals and institutions with donated supplies and equipment and allow them to consistently offer needed services for their needy populations. SRW's primary concern will be meeting the needs of children 18 years old and younger.

### VALUES

SRW's board, director, and medical team members will provide needed care and treatment internationally, while consistently demonstrating the following core values:

- Excellence
- Respect
- Compassion
- Accountability

*All donations are tax deductible.*

*Please make checks payable to:*

### **Sharing Resources Worldwide.**

*Sharing Resources Worldwide is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and is a tax exempt charitable 501 (c) (3) organization.*

*For more information on Sharing Resources Worldwide, check out our Web site at*

**[www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org)**

### **Sharing Resources Worldwide**

Mary Dowling, Director

### **Governing Board**

Richard Thompson, President

Adam Dowling

Neil Lucchese, M.D.

John Woodford, M.D.

Patricia White, C.R.N.A.

Wendy Read, R.N.

### **Advisory Board Members**

Kaye Lillisand, M.S.N.

David Mann, M.D.

# Giving a Hand in Siguatepeque

**T**wo hands can accomplish so much more than one. The same is true for the making of a good medical mission team. Collaboration is key!

On November 4, 2016, team members from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Pennsylvania met in Atlanta and traveled together to Siguatepeque, Honduras for our annual hand and upper extremity medical mission. This team was joined by our dental group from Wisconsin and Florida. The hand team screened 40 patients for surgery that week, and the dental team also operated on three patients during that week in the operating rooms. Our occupational therapist treated 22 children, some who also had surgery.

In the dental clinic, 170 children and adults were treated. Because of the oral hygiene and dental care education our previous teams have taught the students at La Providencia Academy, the older students now require very little intervention at their dental appointments. This leaves more time for the very young new patients/students who do require intervention — and also more time for adults who need treatment. Dr. Schacherl and his staff have had a legendary impact on dental care in this population. Lives will probably be saved by good oral hygiene as these children and adults become older.

All of our patients did well.

Through them, word is spreading about the services offered by Providence World Ministries and our SRW teams. In their eyes, our surgical teams do the impossible: repairing birth defects and injuries that would otherwise seem hopelessly permanent. Whether through dental care or surgical intervention, better futures for children are being realized.

Team members were:

Erica Lawler MD  
Apurvah Shah MD  
Jonathan Katz MD  
Sandra Cox RN  
Melinda Seering MD  
John Schacherl DDS  
Paula Woods RN  
Linda Wilson RN  
Lynn Burleson SC  
Cindy Haas CRNA  
Laura Covalli CRNA  
Lynn Gregorowicz RN  
Michele Friday RN  
Mary Dowling RN  
Meagan Pehnke OT  
Jean Foley DA  
Paul Maxwell Technician  
Denise Jacobsen RDH  
Frank Montoya DA  
Brenda Maxwell DA  
Rachel Montoya RDH  
Kim Brabender RDH ●



OT, Meagan, makes a hand splint



Jose is ready for his anesthesia



Dr. Shah and his patient post-op



Our entire hand team



Dr. Schacherl and Denise in dental clinic

# Something New



All set to go home



Our cast and pin team



One little foot that needs repair

## Join our next dental team

SRW takes dental teams to Honduras two times per year. We would like to take a dental team more often. If you know of dentists, hygienists, or assistants who might be interested, please contact Mary Dowling at 608-445-850403 or mdowl@tds.net.

Join a team and work hard and have fun doing it! ●

### Mission Team Schedule for 2017 going to Honduras

- May 5-12 — dental team
- October 6-13 — hand team
- October 21-28 — pediatrics screening team
- November 4-11 — strabismus team and dental team

On our 12th annual orthopedic team mission to Honduras in January 2017 we screened 180 children and 41 had surgery by our team. That means many casts to change and reapply six weeks post-operatively and many pins to pull. So, for the first time, we recruited another great team of eight volunteers and returned to Siguatepeque six weeks later to do just that on March 9-12, 2017.

Our team examined and treated 35 of the 41 seen in January at Providence's John Eaves Clinic in two days. All of our patients did well and looked forward to only four to six more weeks of a cast before they can begin to walk again or perhaps for

the first time. They now have feet/legs that are in a much better position to facilitate that effort.

Many parents expressed their gratitude and could already see a better future for their child.

Thank you to our SRW team members and the PWM staff for a great cooperative effort on behalf of each of our patients.

Team members were:

- David Mann MD
- Paul Caskey MD
- Mary Beth Schneider CRNA
- Jessica Hoffmaster CRNA
- Wendy Read RN
- Mary Dowling RN
- Pat White RN
- Liz Shimon PA ●

## Note of thanks from a Honduran family

*This note of appreciation was received from a family whose son we saw in January 2017 in Honduras. Their son did not require treatment from our team, but they were even more aware of the need.*

We appreciate what you are doing for our Children, please never stop helping them as we need more people like you all with big hearts and the courage to leave your country and travel all the way here to work a nonstop schedule and make a better life for our people in Honduras.

Many Blessings, Ramon, Stephanie and Rodrigo ●

# Moments in Time

by Mary Dowling

**D**o you have some of those moments in your life that you are fairly certain you will never forget? While doing our Sharing Resources Worldwide medical and dental missions over the last 15 years I have many of those. Certain moments and some patients are just unforgettable.

About six years ago, while we were on our annual orthopedic mission in Siguatepeque, Honduras and we had just completed a big case in the operating rooms, our surgeon said, "He will need x-rays in the morning."

That was a complicated order for all, especially for the patient, Eduardo. We would have to load him in a wheelchair then onto the back of a pick-up and take him five miles into town to get that x-ray. This was all less than 12 hours after surgery. If the x-ray was not what they wanted we would then have to take Eduardo back into surgery to redo the process. We had placed hardware into his femur with more hardware on the outside of his leg to correct his defect and allow him to walk better. Oh, did I mention that the first two miles of that trip were on a bumpy dirt road and that it was raining?

I vowed that day that we would not do this to any patient again. That meant we needed an x-ray machine in our operating rooms. Those machines are called c-arms. I contacted a very gracious supporter of SRW to ask about extra funding. Then I found a used c-arm in Chicago and eventually, with the expense being covered, we had a c-arm to send in our annual shipment of supplies and

**When shopping on-line at Amazon**, be sure to enter through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) when ordering and put SRW into that info and we will receive 0.5% back in a donation from Amazon.



Getting Eduardo into the pickup

equipment to Honduras.

Upon arrival of the c-arm we had to work out some bugs (it had traveled a long way) but eventually our magical biomedical engineer, Gary Haefer, figured

out the problem and fixed the portable x-ray machine.

Now we can use this machine for some preoperative x-rays and that saves us much time and money. But more importantly no one has to go down a bumpy road less than 12 hours after surgery for an x-ray. They can do that right in the operating room during the case. This also means we can offer patients surgical options that we could not in the past so we help even more children. Everyone is a winner with our c-arm machine! Eduardo remains a special friend and patient to many of our team, despite that uncomfortable ride that day. Just one moment in time. ●



Friends holding his chair in place



Eduardo, his mom, and Mary Dowling in January

# If This Is Work, Sign Me Up

by Mary Dowling

Medical mission trips usually involve lengthy journeys, early mornings, and long days. Time is precious, as team members work hard to help as many children as possible in one short week.

All of the above describes SRW's mission trip to Siguatepeque, Honduras, October 22–29, 2016. Fourteen team members from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania worked with Providence World Ministries to provide corrective surgery for children with crossed eyes and blocked tear ducts. Half of the team were veterans; for the others this was a first mission. Because we had two pediatric eye surgeons, we looked forward to a more-than-usually fruitful week together.

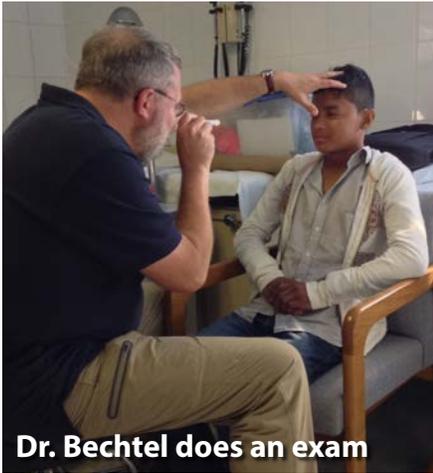
After screening 97 patients, we set our five-day surgery schedule and started our work the next day. We operated on 38 children that week. We also had follow-up appointments with many patients who were treated by SRW's team in 2015. Both our patients and their families were very pleased with the children's new look and new future.

Our hosts and partners, Providence World Ministries, again provided a fine facility for our work, as well as great logistics, food, hospitality, and friendships.

Mission trips are demanding, and yes, the days are long. But the outcomes are so satisfying, the patients' smiles are so priceless, and the friendships are so meaningful. Sometimes it is hard to call it work!

Team members were:

Robert Bechtel MD  
Lloyd Bender MD  
John Alamaida RN  
Wendy Read RN  
Pat Kreibich RN  
Mary Dowling RN  
Dick Beinborn CRNA  
Matt Dryer CRNA  
Rose Silveira CRNA  
Karen Fletcher Teacher  
Annie Beinborn Librarian  
Charlene Sauer NP  
Kristin Schomburg RN  
Kearnan Willett MD ●



Dr. Bechtel does an exam



Dr. Bender and Dr. Willett with patient and family



Look for us on facebook!

Sharing Resources Worldwide  
2405 Industrial Drive • Madison, WI 53713  
Phone 608-445-8503 • E-mail [mdowl@tds.net](mailto:mdowl@tds.net) • [www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org)

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For your convenience, SRW can now accept your donation by credit card online. Just go to our website at [www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org) and donate via credit card on our secure site.

Sharing Resources Worldwide  
2405 Industrial Drive  
Madison, WI 53713

Mary Dowling  
608-445-8503  
mdowl@tds.net

See more about SRW and make copies of this newsletter at:  
<http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org>

## With Gratitude

There are many individuals and companies, both local and from across the U.S., that assist with surgical teams by donating funds and or supplies. The success of our missions is very dependent on these donors.

We wish to thank them and acknowledge their contributions to our efforts. There are too many to list here...but we thank you all!

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		St. Mary's Hospital, Madison	

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